

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 400

1. The meeting of the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee was held in Room 400 of the West Hartford Town Hall on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.
2. The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
3. Steve and Mary Ellen gave an update on the North Main Street Road Diet Program. There was a meeting of neighbors held at the American School for the deaf on Tuesday, March 15. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Mary Ellen went through a Power Point presentation to explain that this is primarily a safety measure. Some of the people in attendance were initially against the proposal, but by the end of the meeting, most of them were in favor. If any recipients of these minutes live on or near North Main Street between Bishop's Corner and West Hartford Center and would like to host a neighbor's get together or express their support, please log on to the facebook page entitled MAKEMAINSTSAFE.
4. Scott gave an update on the Bicycle Facilities Plan. The Town reviewed the suggested changes made by the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee and made only a handful of those changes. The group expressed its concern that the Town is not listening to the suggestions of its own Bicycle Advisory Committee. At the April 11 of the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee there will be an open house for people to speak to Town staff about the proposed Bicycle Facilities Plan, ask questions and give their suggestions. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:00 pm in Room 400 of the West Hartford Town Hall.
5. Dan gave an update on the Cycling Without Age Program. The bicycle is now back at Hughes Rehabilitation Center and we are starting to give rides again to the elderly citizens. Dan has also spoken with the Director of the Elmwood Senior Center and they are very interested in giving rides to seniors who frequent that destination. Dan has graciously agreed to take over the Cycling without Age Committee after Lene returns to her native Denmark.
6. Scott mentioned that Celebrate West Hartford will be held on June 5. The West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee will staff the bike corral on Burr Street for both days. The West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee is also considering staffing a booth at the top of the stairs, but we need someone to chair the effort before we commit.
7. Scott reported that Ed is willing to undertake the Center Streets Program in early September, where all of LaSalle Road, part of Farmington Avenue, part of South Main Street and the driveway, Farmington Avenue and Radio Shack will be closed to vehicles. The roads will be opened exclusively to pedestrians and cyclists. If you are interested in helping with this great event, please email Scott at info@bikewesthartford.org.
8. Scott mentioned that June 3-5 is National Bike Travel Weekend. The goal is to get people to go on a bike overnight to a camp ground, nearby park, public land, hotel, cabin, etc. Unfortunately, this event falls on the weekend of Celebrate West Hartford.
9. Scott mentioned that the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee will have a table at the screening of Bike vs. Cars at Real Artways on April 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. There will be a discussion regarding the issue prior to the film starting. The film will start at 7:00 p.m.
10. Scott mention that Friday, May 20, 2016 is National Bike to Work Day. The West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee will reach out to state officials to attend the event at REI in Blue Back Square and ride down to the Old State House, similar to last year. Jim has agreed to spearhead this effort.

11. Scott mentioned that Bike to School Day is on Wednesday, May 4. The West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee will reach out to Rosemarie Bonner, the Town's Supervisor of Physical Education and Health Education, to inquire which schools will be participating in the event this year.

12. A discussion ensued regarding bi-weekly bike rides during the spring and summer. Four volunteers stepped up to organize rides. The rides will be weekday evenings and will each be about 20 miles in length. Turn by Turn directions will be provided for each ride.

13. Scott mentioned that the I Can Bike Program sponsored by the Miracle League of Connecticut will be holding its sessions from July 25-29. This is a program which teaches special needs children to ride a bicycle without training wheels. Members of the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee participated in this event last year and it was an incredibly gratifying experience for them. If you are interested in helping this year, please email Scott at info@bikewesthartford.org. The I Can Bike Program is looking for volunteers who can help for one hour each day during that week. The goal is to have the same volunteers work with each of the students for their one hour slot all week.

14. Sandy mentioned that there will be a program put on in Simsbury on Friday, April 22 from 8:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. to teach bicycling to children in physical education and health education classes. Registration fee is \$25.00. It was discussed that the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee would subsidize a few teachers as an incentive for them to attend this workshop.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott B. Franklin, Chair
West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee